

Grace Lutheran Church

716 8th Street
PO Box 549
Dawson, MN 56232
(320) 769-4394
gracelut@farmerstel.net
www.gracedawson.org

Providence Valley Lutheran Church

2495 120th Street
Dawson, MN 56232
(320) 769-2234
pvlchurch@yahoo.com
www.pvlchurch.org



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DAWSON MN 56232
PERMIT #71
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Grace Lutheran & Providence Valley Lutheran Leadership

Our Church Staff

Pastors: Kendall L. Stelter

Austin Krohnke, Intern

Membership Care Director:

Emily Stelter

Youth Director:

Tammy Wager

Organist/Pianist:

Chris Lehne (Grace); Beth Borstad (Providence Valley)

Financial Secretary:

Karen Collins (Grace)

Office Secretaries:

Jesi Martinson (Grace); Heidi Prestholdt (Grace)

Karen Bengtson (Providence Valley)

Church Custodian:

Keith Nelson (Grace); Phyllis Lund (Providence Valley)

Grace Lutheran Leadership

Tim Borstad, *President*

Stacy Stratmoen, *Vice President*

Sandy Smaagaard, *Secretary*

Sharon Johnsrud, *Treasurer*

Grace Lutheran Board Directors

Christian Education

Church Property

Evangelism

Lay Ministry

Parish Fellowship

Stewardship

Youth

Danielle Stotesbery

Peter Lee

Serena Brown

Ryan Stotesbery

Deb Boe,

Carol Phillips

Steve Tufto

Jesi Martinson

Providence Valley Leadership

Harvey Swenson, *President*

Karen Bengtson, *Secretary*

Melanie Peterson

Bruce Lund

Josh Beninga

Kris Bach

Doug Breberg



Grace Lutheran and Providence Valley Lutheran
are member congregations of the ELCA

Grace Lutheran Church | 716 8th Street | PO Box 549 | Dawson, MN 56232

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Grace & Providence *notes*

GRACE LUTHERAN & PROVIDENCE VALLEY LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022

Christmas Worship Services

All our welcome to join us for our Christmas services at Grace Lutheran Church & Providence Valley Lutheran Church.

✦ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 3:00pm

✦ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30pm

✦ PVLC Candlelight Service at 5:00pm

✦ Christmas Day Worship with Communion at 10:00am



LYO Poinsettia Sales

Grace Lutheran Youth will be offering the opportunity for our members and friends to remember a loved one by giving a Red Christmas Poinsettia in their memory or honor and allowing it to be part of our chancel decorations for the Christmas season. You can place your orders before and after church services, at the church office, or gracedawson.org. The cost of each plant is \$25.

Poinsettia plants may be picked up at the church after the last Christmas service. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Service Sign-Up

We will once again be offering a service sign up for the Grace Lutheran Services. You can reserve through the Grace Website, Facebook, or contact the office. *Reservations are not necessary to attend worship but will help us plan seating.*

Gifts For Kids

The Evangelism Board is asking for monetary donations to purchase Christmas gifts for Dawson area families in need this season. They will be accepting donations until December 5th. Donations can be left in the offering plate or church office.



Thank you for
your gifts of
generosity!

Merry Christmas

"....they made known what they had been told about his child and all who heard were amazed." Luke 2:17-18

After the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem and found the Lord Jesus they shared the good news that God is now with us and remains with us all. As we gather this Christmas in our congregations at Grace and Providence we too, share in the same news, "Christ the child was born for you!"

We are a church that belongs to Christ. We give thanks for the many ways that the coming of Jesus has blessed our congregations and our community. With the loss and turmoil in these times of a continuing pandemic, we will celebrate this very hope the season brings to us. This hope, along with peace, love and joy, are all gifts that God gives the Church. We pray that all four of these would fill your life in every way this Christmas. Without Christ's presence among us we would be lost, so just like the earliest shepherds of the Christmas story, we proclaim this good news! Through God's presence working hope, peace, love and joy within us we are being healed, transformed, and being made whole.

We, your staff, pray you have a wonderful Christmas!



Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers



Sunday, December 12th at 2:00pm

Dawson-Boyd Memorial Auditorium

Tickets: Adults \$12; Children \$10

Tickets can be purchased online at gracedawson.org or in person at Grace Lutheran Church.

The Chosen has a new episode! To launch the Christmas season this December, The Chosen has created a special episode about the birth of Christ through the eyes of Mary and Joseph.

You'll also see an extraordinary lineup of musicians perform both new and classic Christmas songs from the set of The Chosen, including: Phil Wickham, For King & Country, Brandon Lake, Maverick City Music, Cain, Matt Maher, Bryan & Katie Torwalt, Jordan Feliz, We The Kingdom, The Bonner Family, Leanna Crawford, Dawson Hollow, and One Voice Choir.

This is the perfect opportunity to bring friends and family, including those who haven't seen The Chosen, for a unique Christmas experience! Justen Overlander will be attending to answer questions and tell more about The Chosen series!

Grace Lutheran

October 2021 Report

October Income:	\$ 60,621
October Expense:	\$ 26,169
Year To Date Income:	\$ 337,554
Year To Date Expenses:	\$ 317,514
2020 Comparison (same period):	
Year To Date Income	\$ 300,337
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 312,152

In our Prayers...

Grace Lutheran Church: Gregg Tucholke, Clarice Olson, Jack Flayton, Jim Anderson, Tom Beals, Ken Club, Monica Kennedy, Brad Madsen, Lauren Thoen, Julie Miron, Joey Anderson-Urness, Mike Thompson, John Perry Peterson, Asher Fjerkenstad
Providence Valley Lutheran Church: Arlys Buer, Doug Breberg, Evelyn Lundgren, Linda Tollakson, Deb Trapp
 Madeline & Wilton Gustafson, Lucille Williams, & Joy Windingstad
The Families of Gay Septon, Carol Nelson, and Chris Femrite



The final day to make 2021 contributions will be Monday, January 10th

Statements will be mailed mid-January.

Please remember that by law, if you are 70^{1/2} or older, you can make a direct contribution to Grace from your IRA. This distribution is not included in your income so you can avoid the potential negative consequences that regular IRA withdrawals in retirement can create. Please consult your tax advisor to determine how this tax law affects your situation.

2022 Annual Meeting

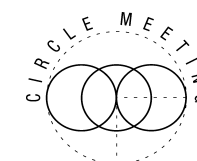
The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6th, 2022
 The 2022 proposed budget will be available on Sunday, January 30th, 2022



In Memory of Sylvia Lee
 Memorial Fund \$50

In Memory of Karson Lindblad
 Youth Fund \$20

In Memory of Pat Saltness
 Memorial Fund \$2,250



Lydia Circle

Monday, December 13th at 9:30am
 Place: Grace Hall
 Hostesses: Potluck
 Bible Study: Pastor Kendall
Monday, January 24 at 9:30am
 Place: Grace Hall
 Hostesses & Bible Study TBD

Ruth Circle

Monday, December 13th at 6:00pm
 Place: Grace Hall
 Hostess: Potluck
 Bible Study: Pastor Kendall
Monday, January 24 at 7:00pm
 Place: Grace Hall
 Hostesses & Bible Study TBD



December:

Gail Nelson
 Ann Borstad
 Deb Boe
(Christmas Day-Saturday 12/25)

Grace Lutheran

Average Worship

Attendance

9:00am: 209



Funerals

May our Heavenly Lord keep in tender love the lives which we hold in blessed memory and comfort their family and friends in their grief.

Joe Olson
November 6th, 2021

Sylvia Lee
November 22nd, 2021



Weddings

Calie Johnson & Micky Viessman
November 20, 2021

Baptisms

Lennon Leigh Wager
November 14th, 2021
 Daughter of Jarrett & Danielle

“This is the most beautiful tree we’ve ever had.” – Rose Marie Lewis

I’m writing this on the second anniversary of my mom’s death. It’s really all I can think about today. This will be my third Christmas without my mom. Somedays it feels like it was just yesterday she was sitting in my living room, complimenting me on my tree and other Christmas decorations. My mom, like most moms I’m sure, made me feel so incredibly loved. That unconditional love that only a parent has for their child. I can’t explain how much I miss that. When I was growing up, we would always go to a tree farm and cut down our Christmas tree. It was quite a process finding the perfect tree. When we brought it home, dad oversaw the lights, my sisters and I the decorations and the last thing that was put on the tree was popcorn strings. My mom would put the strings of popcorn around the tree and then step back and proclaim, “This is the most beautiful tree we’ve ever had”! Every year, the same proclamation. My sisters and I would roll our eyes...I guess every year we had the most beautiful tree ever. One year we had to top the pine trees in front of our house and my dad decided we should just use one of the treetops for our Christmas tree. As usual, he put on the lights, my sisters and I decorated, and mom put on the popcorn strings. When she finished, she stood back and made her annual proclamation...I still laugh when I think of it. This tree was UGLY! Misshaped, bare spots, and very strange top and those were the good things about the tree! The most beautiful tree we ever had. Really?

As I have reflected on this annual proclamation I have come to realize how “beautiful” it was. Every Christmas we are blessed with the amazing gift of the baby Jesus. An incredible gift, born in a messy, imperfect, manger, that changed our lives forever. This baby, this Jesus comes into our misshapen, bare, and sometimes ugly lives and turns them upside down. He makes the ugly beautiful, the bare whole, the misshapen perfect. Through this amazing gift of unconditional love and sacrifice that only our Father can give, we receive the gift of life eternal. What an amazing and beautiful gift to celebrate. We can stand back every year, every day and proclaim “This is the most beautiful” gift I have ever and will ever receive!

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

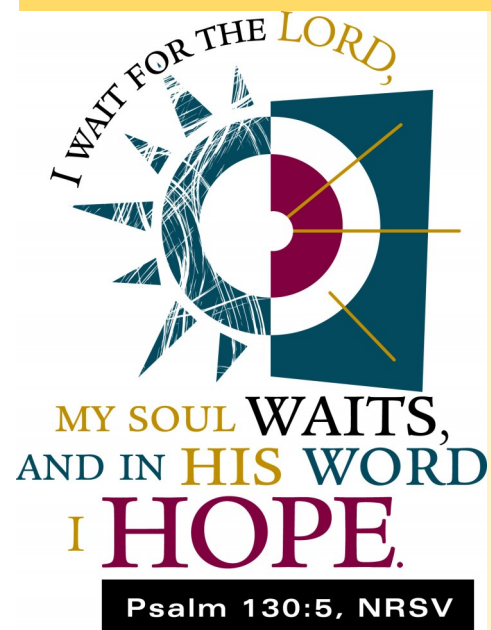
Merry Christmas!
Emily Stelter – Director of Membership Care



Thank you for all of your donations this month for the Dawson Area Food Shelf! We were able to pass our goal of 500 items for the Thrivent Member Network - Northland Region challenge! If we were able to collect 500 items, Thrivent would give \$500 to the food shelf. An extra thank you Thrivent for doubling that donation to \$1,000! Crossroads Lutheran Church was also able to collect over 500 items which means the Dawson Area Food Shelf will be receiving \$2,000 from Thrivent this month!

The Dawson Area Food Shelf is located on the first floor of the Grace Lutheran Education wing. It is open every Tuesday from 1:00-4:00pm and is available to any family in need. Beginning Tuesday, December 7th during food shelf hours, the items collected during the Holiday Clothing Drive will also be available to families in need. This room will be open every Tuesday from 1-4pm. We are grateful for Woody Peet and all of the volunteers who keep the food shelf operating, as well as those who have organized the Holiday Clothing Drive this year. Thank you to all of those who have given donations for these important ministries!

Waiting in the Woods, Waiting on God



“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.”

-Psalm 130:5

If you haven’t already heard, I was graced with a beautiful buck stumbling upon me on my last day hunting slug season. It’s only my third year hunting - and first buck on my own! - but already I’m learning that it takes many hours in the woods for an encounter with such an awesome creature. Last year was the first year hunting by myself, and the last two days of the season were particularly long ones. Cold temperatures had settled in, with wind chills threatening single digits. I sat all day those last two days in spots I thought had good deer sign, waiting. I waited and waited and waited, and saw not a single deer - just corn residue blowing across the barren fields. I did not even fill the tag that season. This waiting in the woods is a lot like how it feels to wait on God; often God

seems to come so slowly, if at all. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for over 400 years before God sent Moses to deliver them. It was nearly 1,000 years after King David that Jesus finally came to be the Messiah.

And we’re going on 2,000 years now since his death and resurrection, all the while waiting for him to return and fully establish God’s reign of peace. The people of God wait for painfully long amounts of time. In our individual lives, we wait months and years for God to answer our prayers - to bring a disease to remission, to heal a broken relationship, to reveal a calling. Often God seems to answer our prayers so slowly, if at all. And just like the bitter cold days the hunter spends waiting in the woods, we struggle and question and doubt while we wait on God. The reality is that God does not always



answer prayer or come as we would wish, even when intentions seem nothing but pure. We wait and wait and wait, yet do not always see God’s action in our lives. The reality of deer hunting is the same; many times the beautiful buck simply does not show. It’s the few times the hunter is graced with such an encounter - or hears stories of another’s encounter - that must be remembered in all those long days of waiting. In the same way, we cling to the times God has healed and saved and revealed, trusting the promise that God will indeed come again. Until then, we wait.

Intern Pastor– Austin Krohnke



Youth Ministry Update

Our Turkey Take-out Thanksgiving meal that we put on for our senior residents was held on Sunday, November 21st. We served almost 200 seniors and workers. Because of Covid, we decided to do the drive through take out once again this year. We hope everyone enjoyed their meal! We are sure hoping that next year we can have our normal indoor Thanksgiving meal with fellowship. We sure have missed that the last few years!

The youth are now selling poinsettias. The cost this year is \$25. The flowers make the church look so beautiful and festive for Christmas! Don't forget to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one! The youth will be selling them on Sunday mornings before and after the worship services. You can also place an order by calling the church office.

The Christmas program this year will be held on Sunday, December 12th at a special 10:45 worship service. The Sunday school kids have been working very hard preparing for the program on Sunday mornings. The kids in grades 1 – 6 will also practice on Wednesdays, Dec. 1st and Dec. 8th from 3:15 – 5:00. We are very thankful for Tammy Kruse who will be directing the 1st – 6th grade program and to Chris Lehne for playing the piano. Another big thank you goes out to Brandon and Allysa Hurley for working with the preschool and kindergarten kids! They do an incredible job! I also want to thank all of the Sunday school teachers and helpers that have been teaching the first half of the year and helping with the program as well. We could never do these things without all of you! There will be a light dinner served by the fellowship board following the program. All families are asked to bring a plate of goodies for dessert.

There will be no Sunday school on December 19th, Dec. 26th and January 2nd. It will resume on Sunday, January 9th.

We will be looking for teachers very soon for the 2nd half of the year. Please consider teaching...the Christian Ed board would love to hear from you! If you are teaching right now, please let me know if you wish to continue for the 2nd half of the year. The new rotation will begin on Feb. 6th and continue through May 1st.

Looking ahead; the 7th - 9th graders will be having a confirmation retreat on Sunday, January 16th – Monday, January 17th at Lake Shetek near Slayton. Please keep these dates open...it's important for the confirmation kids to attend this retreat.

The New Year will be here before we know it. The youth board will be making plans very soon as to what our SNL events will be for the coming year. You will be notified by email as the plans have been finalized.

Enjoy your Christmas time with family and friends. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God's Blessings to you all!

Tammy Wager



- ♦ **Sunday, December 5th**
10:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 8th**
2:00 Release time for 1&2 Gr.
3:30 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation
3:15 - 5:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
- ♦ **Sunday, December 12th**
10:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
10:45 Sunday School Christmas Program at Grace Lutheran
2:00 9th Grade Confirmation class will be attending The Chosen Christmas Movie at DB Memorial Auditorium.
- Wednesday, December 15th**
2:00 Release time for 1&2 Gr.
3:30 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation
- ♦ **Sunday, December 19th**
9:00 Alleluia & Hand Bell Choir will sing/play during worship
No Sunday School—Class resumes January 9
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 22nd**
No Release Time or Confirmation Classes -
Classes resume January 5th
- ♦ **Sunday, December 23rd:**
No Sunday School - Classes Resume Sunday January 6th
- ♦ **Sunday, January 16th & Monday, January 17th**
7th, 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat at Lake Shetek

THANKS FOR GIVING

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a weekly bulletin or radio/online broadcast during the past year. This is a well received ministry to have our worship broadcasted to our area and also to have our bulletins for worship as well as delivered to our home-bound. Please call the church office to reserve your special dates for 2022 to remember or honor a loved one. Also, thank you those who deliver bulletins each week.

You are appreciated!

The Grace LYO would like to thank everyone involved in the Turkey Takeout Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you to the American Legion Post 177 and Jennie-O for donating the turkey, Paul & Joyce Iverson for delivering the turkeys, Lisa & Lindsey Lund for making our desserts, and to everyone who helped prepare and serve the meal!

Thank-you to all who donated towards our “Thanks For Giving” campaign. Our goal was to highlight our many ministries of the church and we set a goal of \$5,000. The money that was raised reached and surpassed our goal coming in at \$5,386.86!

HOLIDAY

CLOTHING DRIVE

GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH TO AREA KIDS AND ADULTS!!!

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 19

Drop Off Locations:

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
716 8TH STREET
DAWSON, MN 56232

JMHS - CLINIC
1294 LOCUST ST
DAWSON, MN 56232

WE ARE IN NEED OF GENTLY USED OR NEW:

COATS, HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, BOOTS, GLOVES & SOCKS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

For questions contact: Lindsay Ourada 507-828-0115
Grace Lutheran Church 320-769-4394 Danielle Stotesbery 507-384-8169



'TIS THE SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP AND GRATITUDE.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member with Choice Dollars® to direct, you can help our church continue its ministry here and reach out to the greater community.

Simply direct Choice Dollars to Grace Lutheran, Dawson. We plan to use these grant funds to support our ministries at Grace Lutheran. You can make your direction online at [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say “Thrivent Choice®” after the prompt.

The Thrivent Choice charitable grant program lets eligible Thrivent members recommend where some of Thrivent's charitable dollars are distributed. More than \$370 million in Choice Dollars grant funds were distributed to churches and other nonprofit organizations since the program was introduced in 2010.

Members have until March 31st, 2022 to direct their 2021 Choice Dollars. To see if you are eligible to participate or have questions, call Thrivent toll-free at 800-847-4836.